

SOIL CONSERVATION DIVISION[27]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 161A.4(1), the Division of Soil Conservation of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 10, “Iowa Financial Incentive Program for Soil Erosion Control,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The existing summer construction incentive provisions for soil erosion control provide an increased cost-share rate for constructing conservation practices from June 1 to September 15. Drought has had an adverse impact on the construction of certain practices. These proposed amendments would allow that, for the current year, the completion requirement would be considered to have been met if the practice is completely finished by December 31, 2012. Haying and grazing can occur during calendar year 2012 without loss of the summer construction incentive. Additionally, a one-time payment of \$25 per acre would be authorized for establishing a cover crop.

Any interested persons may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendments on or before 4:30 p.m. on September 11, 2012. Written comments should be addressed to Margaret Thomson, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Wallace State Office Building, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Comments may also be submitted by fax to (515)281-6236 or by e-mail to Margaret.Thomson@IowaAgriculture.gov.

These proposed amendments are subject to the Division’s general waiver provisions.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no adverse impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 161A.2.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend paragraph **10.60(1)“c”** as follows:

c. For currently funded fiscal years, the division will make one-time payments of up to \$10 per acre for no-tillage, ridge-till and strip-till; \$6 per acre for contour farming; \$25 per acre for establishing a cover crop; and 50 percent of the cost up to \$25 per acre for strip-cropping, field borders and filter strips. Not more than 30 percent of the district’s original allocation and supplemental allocation may be used for the establishment of management practices to control soil erosion on land that is now row-cropped.

ITEM 2. Amend paragraph **10.60(2)“c”** as follows:

c. The construction of the permanent conservation practice shall take place between June 15 and October 15. Work must be started and completed between these dates and verified by the technician prior to payment of the incentive. For calendar year 2012, work which has been started by June 15 and is completely finished by December 31 will be considered to be constructively completed by October 15.

ITEM 3. Adopt the following new paragraph **10.60(2)“f”**:

f. Haying and grazing may occur during calendar year 2012 without loss of the summer construction incentive.

ITEM 4. Adopt the following new paragraph **10.82(1)“d”**:

d. Cover crops.